

I am writing this letter to oppose bill 5704.

Mandatory voting is a violation of the principle of individual liberty and freedom of expression. Mandatory voting could also lead to a scenario where citizens cast a random or protest vote, which may not reflect their genuine preferences or beliefs. This could undermine the democratic process and the legitimacy of the election outcome.

Moreover, mandatory voting could disproportionately affect lower-income families who may not have the resources or flexibility to take time off from work or other responsibilities to vote. In Connecticut, many low-income workers face precarious employment situations with little job security or benefits, and they may not have access to paid time off or flexible work schedules. For these families, fining them for not having the ability to get time off work is essentially adding an additional tax on the poor.

Additionally, implementing mandatory voting would require significant resources and administrative effort to enforce the law. This would include additional staff, technology, and infrastructure to ensure that every eligible voter casts a ballot and that those who do not are fined. The cost of implementing such a system could be substantial and divert resources away from other important areas.

In conclusion, while mandatory voting may seem like a way to increase civic engagement and voter turnout, the repercussions of this proposal far outweigh the advantages.

Sincerely,

D.J. McBride